

Times Your Community

# The people that make D8 Great!

By Councilmember Rose Herrera  
*Special to the Times*

Now more than ever, let's celebrate what makes San Jose a great place to live: the people.

In District 8, we are fortunate to have residents of all ages who make our community unique and special. I want to recognize those who exemplify community involvement and volunteerism as D8 Greats. Read about just a few of your neighbors who help District 8 shine.

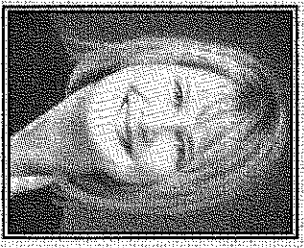
### Advocating for seniors in San Jose

Roger Lasson, an active resident of The Villages Golf and Country Club, is a tireless civic volunteer. Mr. Lasson, a past president of the Villages board, serves on the Senior Commission of the City of San Jose, which reviews, evaluates and makes recommendations to the City Council on matters impacting elderly people in the city. In addition, Mr. Lasson volunteers on the Senior Advisory Council at Evergreen Community Center, as well as the Senior Pair Steering Committee. His commitment to be a passionate advocate for San Jose's senior citizens makes him a D8 Great.

### Middle school students making a difference

Martin McKeown's class at LayVa Middle School have earned a spot on the D8 Great list by raising over \$1,600 to aid the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. On their own, these students made posters advertising the fundraiser and collected donations in Science classrooms. Students who participated include: Gilbert Cano, Eric Darathep, Valeria Grimaldo, Adrian Sim, An Nguyen, Sarah May Soeurn, Geneva Le, Mansaga Kaur, Jessica Palacios, Kylee Gonzalez, Paulina Cortez, Michael Gonzalez and Priya Bolla.

Students from Chaboya Middle School won the first place trophy at the Nor Cal FIRST LEGO League regional West Valley Qualifying Tournament. The team, who call themselves the Stomgears, designed their "Shuttle on Demand" LEGO robotics project that provided an innovative



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and creative solution to traffic congestion and public transportation issues in Evergreen. These D8 Greats are Aakash Parikh, Aditya Mamtara, Anog Kamsetty, Rohan Shankar, Koshan Narayan and Virei Kadakia. Sundeeep Kadakia and Suketu Parikh are technical coaches, and the team mentors are Sudha Narayan, Anu Choudhury and Paddy Mamtara.

**Quimby Oak Middle School** student Jose Andres Rocha is the District 8 student accepted into the People to People International Student Ambassador Program, an educational travel program founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Student Ambassadors represent their school, community, state and country while traveling abroad to France, Italy and Greece. We are all proud of this D8 Great's accomplishment.

### Neighbors clean up District 8

On March 20, over 200 volunteers met at the Meadowlark Community Center to participate in the Great American Litter Pick Up. Volunteers represented the Interact clubs from Evergreen Valley High School, Silver Creek High School and Overfelt High School. The clubs were joined by members of the following groups: District 8 Community Roundtable, Tully Ocala Capitol King Neighborhood Association (TOCK-NA), Boys and Girls Club, Girl Scouts and the Filipino Youth Coalition. This event was sponsored by the Anti-Litter Program. Our special thanks to the District 8 Site Captains Mike Garcia and Terrence

Francesconi.

### Who's next?

Do you know someone who should be the next D8 Great? Let us know! Go to the District 8 Web site and nominate someone who is a D8 Great! [www.sanjoseca.gov/district8](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district8).

Budget challenges are not going to stand in the way of people doing great things! As the largest city in the Bay area, San Jose is the clear choice for where people want to live. And one of the reasons this is a great place to live is the people! Our residents are engineers, nurses, teachers, truck drivers and accountants. We do it all and so much more. D8 Greats are making our corner of San Jose unique and special. Thank you!

Sign up for the newsletter: [www.sanjoseca.gov/district8](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district8). If you have any questions or need any assistance, call us at (408) 535-4908 or [district8@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district8@sanjoseca.gov).

# Surf.

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